

SPECIAL PRIMARY ASSOCIATION ISSUE

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“Leading youth, leading children to know God, to have faith in His laws, to have confidence in His Fatherhood, and to find solace and peace in His love—this is the greatest privilege, the most sublime opportunity offered the true educator.”—DAVID O. MCKAY.

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Thursday, August 30, 1934

Price One Penny

GREETINGS TO BRITISH MISSION PRIMARY WORKERS

IN response to a request from your mission, the General Superintendency of the Primary Association send greetings and with you lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving for the Gospel of Jesus Christ which brings, through obedience, an abiding faith in God.

The great enduring realities that make for success and happiness are love and service, which are numbered among the blessings of our Gospel which we are privileged to enjoy.

To our officers who have so faithfully carried forward the work with the children, we send love and congratulations for the splendid work you have accomplished.

Yours is a blessed opportunity, a sacred calling—a trust from the Lord Himself under His divine injunction, “Feed my lambs.”

To see a human soul open clear and sweet in the light of His truth and be conscious, as the gardener is, that it is your planting, your watering that has brought about the blossoming of a beautiful, trusting faith—it is this that brings the highest joy.

Wherever it is convenient, we would appreciate your expressing our love and good wishes to the children.

We send our sincere appreciation, and earnestly pray for your continued success in the Primary work.

MAY ANDERSON

ISABELLE S. ROSS

EDITH H. LAMBERT

Primary General Superintendency

FROM THE BRITISH MISSION PRIMARY BOARD

PRIMARY work in the British Mission is under the direction of a mission Primary board. At its head is Sister Nettie L. Woodbury, mission Primary supervisor. Her assigned board responsibility, in addition to her general supervisory work, is the direction of the Zion's Boys and Zion's Girls activities.

First counsellor is Sister Celia B. Willmott, who has been assigned the special work of supervising Primary busy-work activities, and superintending the Trail-Builder class-work.

Second counsellor is Sister Edna G. Clayton, whose specialty, along with the Blue-Bird Girl activities, is the Music and Play period. Sister Mildred Poole, the board secretary, supervises the secretarial work of the Primaries, and also the activities of the Sea-Gull Girls department.

In the communications that follow, each member of the Primary board speaks to Primary leaders concerning the phase of general Primary work under her immediate direction.

THE AIM AND IDEALS OF PRIMARY

By NETTIE L. WOODBURY

IT is the aim of the Primary Association to teach, through activities that appeal to children and meet their needs most fully, a living faith in God and in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to make the children think of their Heavenly Father, through providing opportunities for service. Primary teachers hope not merely to teach their pupils to hear good principles, but also to lead them to form good habits of life, and to establish for them a religious background during the all-important years of childhood.

The Primary Association was organized in August, 1878, just fifty-six years ago, for the purpose of giving children week-day activity. It had a small beginning, but its growth has been steady. Today there are nearly 116,000 children enrolled in Primary throughout the world. Many of these are not members of the Church, but they are nevertheless made welcome.

In Primary, a programme is provided which will bring spiritual development to the children through ethical teachings and participation in all types of activities. This is varied so that they receive an all-around development. They learn to sing songs. They are taught that there is a Father in heaven who will watch over them, and to pray to Him for guidance and for safety. Stories are told which will help to strengthen their characters and to inspire them to love and appreciate their parents. They are instructed how to make things with their hands in the busy-work periods, which develops within them the spirit of responsibility. They learn to use



NETTIE L. WOODBURY
British Mission Primary
Supervisor

materials with a purpose. They acquire initiative and leadership, learn respect for the rights of others, and how to live and work harmoniously, forming habits of building, rather than destroying. Through the medium of creative and recreative play, which is taught in the meetings, there is opportunity to train the children in the principles of the Gospel by allowing and encouraging expression of their interests in physical, manual, linguistic, rhythmic, dramatic and social activities.

Such a programme as this, given to the children for one hour each week, cannot help but develop them and help them to grow and to be better men and women.

Our lives are made up of those things we are required to do—our work—and those things we desire to do—our leisure. One of the big objectives of the Primary Association is to provide something for the children in leisure time. The average child has several hours a day of free time which is not guided. It is up to us, as Primary leaders, to implant in the minds of the children a desire to make good use of this time. We are confronted with the challenge of helping each child to live a good life. We must teach him how to live profitably with others, and provide him with interests and imagination enough to live joyously with himself.

Primary stands as the very foundation of all Church auxiliaries. Along with Sunday School, its task is to introduce children into a studied knowledge of the Gospel. Primary today plays an important part in the future of the British Mission, because the Primary children of today will be the M. I. A. members and the Mission leaders of tomorrow.

Primary workers! Carry on in this great work which you are doing for God's children. Make them feel that they are indeed God's children, and help them to live better lives. Those of you who do not have the opportunity of engaging in this work, help by sending your children to the meetings, and assist in the promotion of the work in every way you can. Let us all do our part in spreading the Gospel of Christ.

THE VALUE OF BUSY-WORK

By CELIA B. WILLMOTT

CHILDHOOD days are important days in the life of every one, for it is in these few years that character is moulded. The Primary Association is an aid in building this character because the lessons are so arranged to develop the child along all lines.

It is often thought that a lesson must be a formal exercise. But this is not necessarily so. Every time a child hears something said, each time he sees something done, each time he feels, thinks or acts, he learns a lesson. Of all the lessons children learn, those that come from action of any sort are the most impressive and most lasting. For that reason activity of a useful type plays a large part in Primary classwork.

The creative desire, the desire to make something, is a universal instinct. The busy-work period in Primary, which comes on one evening a month, trains the children to use their hands. Such

handwork is used to illustrate and enrich the lesson material. Too, it offers avenues of action for right principles, and it teaches thrift and ingenuity in the making of useful and ornamental articles out of discarded and waste materials. The children learn to sew, make flowers, model with clay, make raffia mats, work with wood, plant seeds and bulbs, and make many other attractive things.



CELIA B. WILLMOTT
First Counsellor
Primary Board

If this busy-work period is conducted wisely, it can be a practical means of teaching concentration, and of forming in the child the habit of building rather than destroying. Busy-work should be planned so that the children are not allowed to leave things half done. They should be encouraged to always finish that which has been started, and to complete every task given them.

Busy-work in Primary can be made a great attraction to interest youngsters not yet enrolled in the activities of Primary. With that thought in mind, it should receive the careful attention and planning of Primary leaders.

MUSIC IN THE PRIMARY

By EDNA G. CLAYTON

"I AM peace, joy, the happy spirit; you see me in smiles and hear me in the happy laughter of children."

Music and play are assuming most important values in the lives and education of children. Every teacher should be sure she gives the children her very best in the one brief Primary period set aside each month for such activity.



EDNA G. CLAYTON
Second Counsellor
Primary Board

Games should be chosen with care so that the time is spent in a happy and orderly manner. Roughness and rowdiness should be strenuously discouraged.

Let us strive to enrich the lives of our Primary children with a true taste for music, for the impressions of childhood last forever. Remember, we worship God with our singing, therefore let us avoid popular melodies, and select the right kind of songs. All devotional music should be appropriate in spirit, rendered not as an exhibition of individual powers, but as an offering to God. Songs chosen, especially for group singing, should be within the vocal range and understanding of the children, for the lack of these

kills all interest which the children have in singing. Likewise, marches should be chosen that have dignity and are conducive to good bearing. Popular songs with a jazz accent should be avoided.

The hours in Primary should be the happiest in the lives of our children. Carefully planned and wisely prepared music and play periods can be a great force in making this ideal possible.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE RECORDS

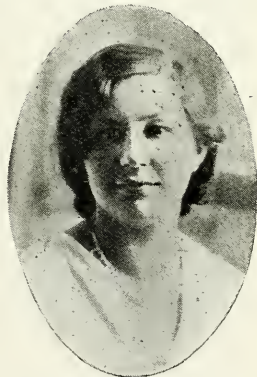
By MILDRED L. POOLE

THE office of secretary in a Primary organization is indeed an important one. For upon the secretary rests the responsibility of keeping for the Church a record of the teachers and children who attend, and of the things accomplished in the meetings.

The importance of record-keeping in the Church is clearly shown by the fact that the first thing mentioned in the first revelation given by the Lord to His people after the organization of His Church in this dispensation, was the keeping of records. The Lord said: "Behold, there shall be a record kept among you." This commandment applies directly to those who are secretaries in Primary. It was given for a purpose, and is binding upon all who hold this responsibility.

The Saviour said: "By their fruits ye shall know them." Cannot these words apply to us who are keeping a record of the Lord's work? If we are to spread the Truth by word of mouth, we must commence by keeping a true record of our meetings.

Every three months the General Board of the Primary require of each association a report of activities, enrolment, and attendance. They need this report so that they will know conditions and problems here, and consequently be better able to help us; also that their records will be complete. We see then that an inaccurate record is of no value at all. If one of us fails to make our report complete and accurate, the whole Church report, which is made up of our individual reports, is wrong. Let us strive to do God's bidding and magnify our calling by making our reports true and accurate.



MILDRED L. POOLE
Secretary
Primary Board

"LIFE is a mission. All other interpretations of it are false. Let us have the little child learn to serve. Get him to do something. What avenues the Primary opens up for that service! Make your boys and your girls do something and you will lead them into the realm of spirituality more quickly than in any other way."—DAVID O. MCKAY.

"IN THE MOUTHS OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES"

PRIMARY PICTURED IN EXPERIENCE

NOTHING speaks so certainly, so authoritatively, or with such self-assurance as does the voice of experience. It neither brooks interruption nor allows contradiction. And nothing stands so unassailable and irrefutable as does the conviction of experience. Against the stout wall of its solidarity, argument conjecture and opinion may dash themselves to bits in a vain attempt to storm its castle. And likewise, in advancing the colours of a cause, they trail respectfully behind experience in the measure of their effectiveness.

Through argument, conjecture and opinion a wonderful case can be built up for Primary work. Its organization, its aims, its ideals, its curriculum—they all have about them the suggestion of genius. But even that is overshadowed by simply what Primary *does* for those who are engaged in it, the change it effects in their lives, the vision of living truths it opens before their eyes, the satisfaction of service that it brings to their souls—all, the products of experience. In this writing, then, Experience will state its case for Primary. Argument, conjecture and opinion rest humbly in accord.

In an editorial published in the *Star's* special Primary issue last August, President James H. Douglas made the statement that Primary is a God-given auxiliary organization, an important part of the Lord's earthly organization—included, as he puts it, in the "etc." of the Sixth Article of Faith. But to Margaret Graham, of the Scottish district, one of the mission's many enthusiastic Primary workers, a realization of the truth of President Douglas's statement was slow in coming—until she saw something happen in her own branch that convinced her of the great force behind Primary. She tells her own story:

"The first Primary which was held in our home proved very successful for about six months, then persecution arose, the work of the evil one had begun. Stories appeared in papers, the word Mormon was spoken of in hate. Children began falling away due to their parents' misconception of the Mormon people. The older children couldn't understand what was wrong. They could find nothing wrong with the hated Mormons, but due to the persistency of the persecution, Primary was closed.

"The children often stopped me, asking when Primary was going to take in again. I had said I did not really know, but that the Lord would attend to that all right. For the time being I thought that all the good that had been done was of no avail, then to my amazement and joy I found that from the Airdrie Primary had been commenced dozens of small Primaries by the children themselves. After school hours the children gathered together, and, a teacher appointed, they were receiving the lessons as had been taught in Primary. The Articles of Faith (the texts for study in the previous classes) were their main feature! Truth will prevail.

"Today in Airdrie, as regards Primary work, there is no persecution. The children, by their parents' consent, come to Primary, which has an average attendance of 40, a hundred per cent. of the enrollment."

Here was Primary carrying over, though the Opposition was doing everything he could to thwart it. Evident is the stamp of Divine approval!

Parents are urged to send their children to Primary, for there, they are told, the children will receive training in ways of love and fellowship, as well as in handicraft and cleanliness. What a blessing, then, one would think, is Primary to a tired mother who sees in it an hour of rest for herself, when her youngsters are gainfully occupied, and the house is quiet. But, strange as it may sound, the parents who most benefit from Primary, are the ones who go themselves. Brother Kenneth F. Bennett, of the Rugby branch, has discovered this:

"I have found through teaching in Primary that I am able to more fully understand both the mental and physical requirements of children. This is a great help to me, because I wish to raise my family on ideal lines. In Primary work, too, I have gained a greater knowledge of the fundamentals of the Gospel than I should have done in any other auxiliary."

Sister Alice Willmott, who has charge of a group of youngsters in the North London branch, is another parent who is all for Primary. She is radiantly happy in her work, and her "family" of interested youngsters in Primary seems to grow larger each meeting afternoon. Her experience in Primary work is refreshing:

"The value of the Primary can be fully realized only by those who give unselfishly of their time and talents to it. When I consider the joys and pleasures, the possibilities and growth for both the teacher and the child who are connected with this organization, I experience a happiness and satisfaction that can only be enjoyed by one who is engaged in a true work of service and love. Seeing and helping one's own children develop into truly strong, healthy, honest men and women, is the greatest joy that can come to a mother; the next greatest joy is that of seeing and helping other children to likewise grow. My firm testimony is that this is the work of the Lord."

"THE Joy of Service"—meaningless words, these, to one who has not experienced the sweet satisfaction that is the reward unselfishly doing things for others. But those who have entered into the spirit of Primary have, it would seem, been granted special vision and experience of the joy that follows service. At least one would infer as much from conversation with Evelyn M. Hall, of Grimsby. This is her testimony:

"I wonder how many people realize the joy of working for others whole-heartedly and enjoy the feeling of satisfaction that such work brings. The greater the work, the greater the blessings if that work is done with faith, love, and charity. Just so in working for the Primary. There is no greater joy than working for the children, for there is nothing more prized than the love of a child."

This precious realization belongs to Sister Nellie Thompson, too—who leads a group of children in Middlesbrough. "Service," she says, "is the key to true happiness. I have proved this by my three years' experience as Primary Mother. Without doubt it is an enduring satisfaction to me that my labours are bearing

(Continued on page 556)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1934

EDITORIAL

CONCERNING THE PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

THIS number of the *Millennial Star* presents to its readers some material designed to interest Primary Association workers and patrons. We once heard a prominent educator remark that any speaker who held the attention of children would prove most interesting to adults. With this remark in mind, we venture the hope that every reader of the *Star* will find this number both interesting and profitable. If this happily shall be the case, then those Primary officers who have worked so hard to make this number a success will feel abundantly rewarded for their labours.

It is generally understood, of course, that the Mission officers are urging on every proper occasion that the auxiliary associations of the Church shall all be organized in every branch where it is feasible to do so. But the Primary does not, fortunately, have to wait until it is feasible to organize the other auxiliaries. If there is a teacher and a place of meeting available, the Primary may organize and go ahead. And in the European group of missions, many Primaries have been organized under these conditions and most of them have been successful, we are glad to learn. This means that there are distinct values in the Primary, and these values are great enough to justify every effort necessary to get a Primary operating successfully. This statement applies to district and branch presidencies as well as to Primary officers, teachers, patrons and others who might be concerned.

The Church is not here for a day only. It will be in Britain when the present generation has passed on. Perhaps the best way to insure this is by the proper training of the youth. We are reminded of a remark that Jesus made on a certain occasion when, speaking of children to a group of people, He said, "of such is the kingdom of heaven." They are far more teachable than adults. They are sinless or nearly so. They are in a period of life devoted to preparations for adulthood. If the preparations are well made, the mature life will be full of joys and satisfactions which will pay abundant dividends on all the efforts to get the preparations.

Efforts spent in teaching the young are likely to be far more fruitful than those spent in trying to convert the old—the grown-ups. But even so, we should not fail to use every opportunity to contact the old and deliver our message to them. And as one means to this end, it is doubtless wise to redouble our efforts in behalf of the children. Doing this will also open the door of contact with parents to a far greater extent than we could otherwise open it. Hence a good Primary is one of our most effective proselyting agencies. Our duty with respect to the Primary is plain. Let us all do our duty.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

OUR PRIMARY ASSOCIATIONS

AS we have passed up and down the British Isles from Aberdeen in the north to Portsmouth in the south, as the occasion has seemed fitting, we have frequently remarked, that in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there is a place for everyone, from the smallest boy or girl to the oldest man or woman. None need be idle.

If we wish to develop good citizens, good community builders, or good Church members, we should begin when they are young.

Solomon, who was considered to be one of the wisest of men, at least at one time in his life said, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it." He also said, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

The time to begin to make a good name is when we are young. The landscape gardener never waits until his vines and shrubbery are large to begin training them. He always begins with the tender shoots, when he can train them to grow as he would wish. How greatly we all admire a well-kept, well-ordered garden. A very striking example of what can be done by careful training of the vine is to be found at Hampton Court gardens. A notable feature of these beautiful gardens is the grape-vine planted over a hundred and fifty years ago. With careful training it has developed into very possibly the most beautiful vine known in the civilized world. If this can be done in nature, it can be done in real life, in the family, in the home, and in the Church.

Governor Folk of Missouri once said, "Good government must begin at the mother's knee." In the bringing up of children one of the most indispensable things is discipline, a discipline which teaches willing obedience.

Many parents are too busy with various things in everyday duties to give their boys and girls the consideration and attention that their growing needs require. Our Primary Associations are intended to be helpful to every father and mother, and to every family.

The Primary Association is designed to provide proper training for children in the principles of the Gospel. Bible stories and stories from other good books are taught them and proper training in discipline, both in the home and elsewhere, are taught these young people.

Our interests are your interests. We appeal to the Latter-day Saints and friends throughout Great Britain to send their children to our Primaries. We have a capable leader here now in the person of Sister Nettie L. Woodbury, a lady missionary who understands Primary work thoroughly—how to organize, how to teach, how to entertain these tiny boys and girls, these men and women in the making. She has devoted her entire time for the past several months visiting various districts and branches, assisting and organizing Primaries, and giving necessary instructions to carry this very essential work on.

One good sister in the Church, Sister Louie B. Felt, spent forty-five years of her life as superintendent of the Primary. If she could spend a lifetime in this great Primary movement, how very important she must have considered it. You good parents, think this branch of Church work over very seriously, and I am

sure you, with me, will say that the Primary work is the stepping stone to the development of faith in God—the outstanding aim of all our auxiliary organizations.—JAMES H. DOUGLAS.

THE PRIMARY ISSUE

THIS issue of the *Star*, dealing as it does with Primary work, has been planned as a supplement to the issue of August 24th, 1933, which also deals exclusively with Primary.

In last year's number, the history of Primary was reviewed, and its comprehensive programme of child education was outlined in considerable detail. In this issue, an attempt has been made to demonstrate the fruits of Primary, with the hope that the two issues together will reflect a faithful picture of the purpose and possibilities of Primary in the British Mission.

TEN STEPS TO TAKE TO START A PRIMARY

1. GET your branch president's approval and support.
2. Write to the Mission Office for a detailed instruction booklet to help you.
3. Study the programme outlined by the Mission Primary Board, and know all there is to know about it.
4. Seek Divine help and guidance.
5. Find a suitable place to hold the meetings, and plan a definite time each week for them.
6. Work up interest and enthusiasm for the work among the children and adults of the branch.
7. Ask the members of the branch to help by sending their own children, and by inviting their neighbours' children to attend.
8. Publicize your Primary by giving out the neat printed invitations to attend its meetings, which you can procure from the Mission Office. They may be distributed by house to house tracting, by giving them to the children as they come home from school, or just as you meet them on the street.
9. Meet with those who are to help you, and make definite plans for your particular association, and then, as your programme gets under way—
10. Expect the greatest joy and satisfaction you have ever experienced—the reward of the love and appreciation of the children you strive to help and teach.—NETTIE L. WOODBURY.

THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT PRIMARY MAY DAY

By WINIFRED LUDLAM

A MORE sweet and picturesque scene has never before been enacted in the history of the Primaries in the Sheffield District than the first District May Day, held May 26th, 1934. Even the old tin chapel robed itself in dignity for the occasion.

United effort and co-operation held sway for a brighter, better and bigger function.

One hundred and thirty-one people witnessed the pretty,

dignified ceremony. The room was decorated in festive fashion, with lilac, May blossom, narcissi, forget-me-nots and yellow tulips.

The platform on which stood the three thrones of green and gold had a dark background of green, with dainty coloured fairy lights casting a scintillating glow.

A programme of songs, poems, dances, both country and entertainment, and skit were presented by the children of the district. The event of the evening was the parade and the crowning of the queens.

The newly organized Boy Scouts of the Sheffield branch were a guard of honour for the queens. First came Her Majesty, Queen Lilac of Sheffield Glade (Miss Peggy Green), with her attendants. Graceful and stately, they marched slowly through the bowery of lilac blooms, down the aisles and to the throne. Their dresses were of white and silver, and mauve and silver.

Following Queen Lilac came Her Highness Queen Yellow Tulip of Woodhouse Glen (Miss Vera Tracy). They

looked indeed true courtiers of a noble court. They depicted their emblem well, each being arrayed in robes of golden yellow.

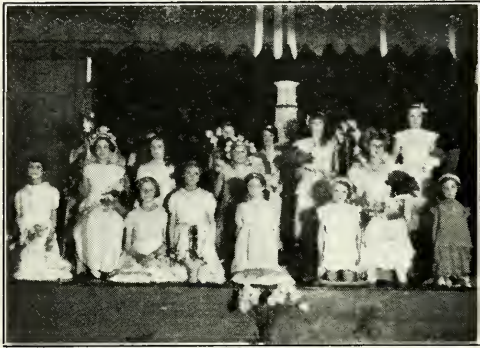
And then came Her Majesty Queen Narcissus of Rawmarsh Vale. They looked enchanting, the Queen and her retinue, clothed in white, with a showing of green carrying baskets of narcissi and fern.

The march was over, and the audience as a body sighed their appreciation and happiness. The Queens were regally crowned by District President Leon Frehner.

From these three queens, Queen Lilac was chosen as District Queen. She was garlanded with violets by Elder Herbert T. Edgar.

As the strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" rang through the hall, one felt the evening had indeed been a rare success.

As a token of love and appreciation the children of the Sheffield District sent a posy of violets tied with cyclamon ribbon to Sister Nettie L. Woodbury.



SHEFFIELD DISTRICT'S PRIMARY
MAY QUEENS AND ATTENDANTS

WHAT THE PRIMARY HAS DONE FOR MY CHILDREN FROM A PRIMARY MOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW

PERHAPS one of the greatest things the Primary has done for my children is to teach them to pray.

Some of the children, when they first come, have no knowledge of prayer at all except that learned at school. Gradually

they are taught how to pray to their Heavenly Father, by first repeating after others, until at last they can stand alone and offer up a prayer in their own words.

On several occasions, I have been really surprised, having called upon a child to open or close with prayer, at the choice of words and simple beauty of the prayer.

Primary has taught my children self-reliance. Each group has its own leader, and so my children have learned not only to obey, but to lead. Many children have the art of leading others into mischief, but in Primary they are taught to lead others in diligence, cleanliness, both within and without, truthfulness, obedience, service. All these things have my children been taught by the Primary. Also the laws of health, by means of exercises, games, ethical stories, etc.

My children, through the teachings of Primary, have learned to strive to love each other at all times and forget each other's faults. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." If the Primary, with all its many activities, succeeded in teaching this only and nothing else, yet would it have accomplished all. For love is the beginning and end of all things, and if my children learn to know the real meaning of love, I shall be content.

SISTER M. A. McCORMICK, London District

"IN THE MOUTHS OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES"

(Concluded from page 551)

rich fruit. May God bless all who will use their talents freely to help this wonderful, soul-satisfying work, is my humble prayer."

Or, as Gladys Quayle of the Sunderland branch has put it:

"Words are inadequate to express the joy and satisfaction I have received since being called to be a Primary Mother. The Primary work is beautiful, and I am grateful for the opportunity afforded me of striving to prepare souls for our Heavenly Father's service. There is nothing brings me greater joy than to see and hear my Primary children, some of whom are not members of the Church, working together in our wonderful organization."

Once, in answer to the question of a guest who marvelled at his patience and apparent enjoyment in teaching and explaining the Gospel to the interested group of elders that used to gather regularly at the Widtsoe flat in Kensington each Saturday night of last summer, President John A. Widtsoe replied, with a characteristic twinkle in his eye: "Why shouldn't I enjoy it? I learn more from these discussions than the elders do." And herein lies a great truth—a truth that many Primary workers were surprised to discover. They had thought that their teaching work would be "all give and no take." Edna Gardner, of Liverpool, was one of these who soon changed her mind:

"I have only been engaged in the work a short time, but I have learned many things. And although the lessons may seem at first simple and childish, they can teach many truths to the older and wiser generation!"

"As we teach children," observes Muriel Esme Beams on this

subject—she is a Primary worker in Bristol—“we learn a great deal from them, the beautiful childlike faith they have, the trust and humility, and willingness to listen to lovely Bible stories, and to the first principles of the Gospel. Let me encourage members of this wonderful Church of ours to help in this Primary work, for the children of today are the men and women of tomorrow.”

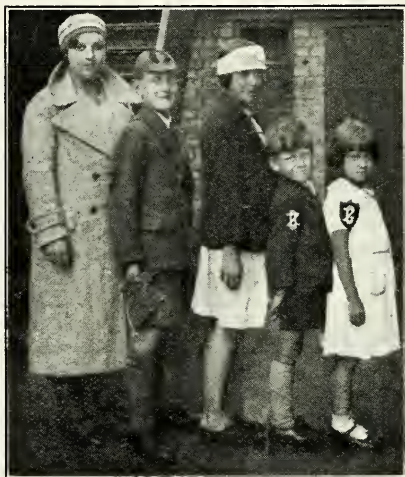
Sister Rose G. Stevens has been struggling, almost alone, for several years to build up a Primary organization in the Brighton branch. Discouragement has never overcome her, because she has caught the vision of what Primary means to the building up of a branch, and, too, she has experienced its benefit to herself. Her feelings in the matter under discussion she has expressed in this manner:

“I can assure you that this is not only a training for the children, but a development also for the teacher. Since I have taken part in Primary work I have learned much, gained greater faith, become more humble, and so obtained a stronger testimony of the Gospel of Christ, which means endless joy.”

One more evidence of experience on this point. This is an observation of Sister Winifred Bullock, who, though she is a Primary teacher, is a fellow-pupil, in the larger sense, with her young son Peter:

“The Primary Association, although essentially a department for children, offers splendid opportunities for growth and advancement to any adult who will take an active part in its work. During the short time I have been engaged in this work, I have experienced a great sense of satisfaction, a joy which is only in evidence when one is employed in the service of the Lord.”

There is no experience that quite compares with the sweet thrill of a dawning testimony, the happiness that bursts full-blown when the gap between hopeful belief and serene knowledge is bridged in one's mind and soul, revealing to one's understanding for the first time the beauties of the Gospel plan, and the true significance of the Fatherhood of God. Often we think we know—and perhaps we do. And then comes an experience into our lives that secures and settles. Odd it is that Primary could bring that conviction to one who was brought up in the Church. But that is just what happened to Irene Bargh. And how beautifully she has expressed it:



PRIMARY PUPILS WITH INSIGNIA

Left to right: Sea-Gull Girl, Trail-Builder Boy, Blue-Bird Girl, Zion's Boy, and Zion's Girl.

“When at the age of eighteen I became a Primary worker, I had a strong testimony of the Gospel. I also loved children, and loved to teach them. These were my qualifications for leading in the Sheffield branch a large Primary, the majority of whose members had no other connection with the Church.

“‘Why did God allow Jesus to be crucified?’ ‘Why am I naughty when I try to be good?’ ‘How do I pray?’ ‘Why does God allow people to be poor?’”

“Do you know the answers to these questions? Of my own wisdom I did not. But in searching for guidance on these and a hundred other problems, I found the children’s Good Shepherd, and gained for myself a personal knowledge of a loving Father in heaven.”

And this comes from Margaret Graham, who told the story of Airdrie’s Primary :

“Primary, one of God’s greatest blessings, has brought to me the sweetest joy that can possibly come to the human heart : the spirit that attends a testimony of the Divinity of Jesus Christ.”

What greater justification can there be of a work than that it brings with it a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, man’s most precious heritage?

EVERY Wednesday evening is a closed evening in the schedule of Elder Howard M. Cullimore, who is the secretary of the European Mission. No inducement has yet been found that can lure him away from meeting, in the North London Primary, with the boys of his Trail-Builder class—who nearly worship him, and who have been changed from a noisy clan of mischievous youngsters to a group that is the epitome of industry under the spell of the interesting things that he gives them to do. His pleasure in Primary comes from quite another direction. Let him describe it:

“Perhaps some of the happiest hours of one’s life are spent in childhood. How often we wish that we might live again those never-to-be-forgotten days when life’s problems were easily overcome in the mighty power of simple faith. Helping in the Primary has enabled me to live again these hours. Besides this joy, it is giving me development along lines of leadership and has opened up a new field of happiness and growth through adherence to the code, emblem and lessons of the Trail-Builders, the class with which I have been most closely associated. No one is so old that he cannot learn much, nor so intelligent that his knowledge cannot be increased by the power of humility through conscientious service in this God-given organization.”

Do you long to re-live a corner of your childhood? Here, well attested, is the way.

Just as enthusiastic about the work is Sister Vera Thistleton, whose group meets in the new chapel in Hull. But she smiles, no doubt, when she thinks of just how close she came to missing the experiences of Primary because she thought herself incapable of looking after the children, and because she thought she would not have time to prepare her lesson work. The first request for her to engage in Primary work was refused on these grounds. But persistence on the part of the Primary superintendent finally caused her to give it a try. And now hear what she says :

"Each Wednesday my testimony is strengthened through the eagerness of the children for their activities. . . . God has blessed me greatly in this work. I can feel His presence when taking the Blue-Bird Girls; the hour passes only too quickly. . . . We need a Primary in every branch. Not only do the children need us, but we need them. And as thus far I am childless, in this work do I find an outlet for my love of children and desire to lead them in the paths of righteousness and truth. In this work I have found a great peace and happiness, and already feel much younger and more contented in mind."

Argument, opinion and conjecture bow to experience here!

And from Sister Rita F. Hardy, of the Sheffield branch:

"My Testimony comes in the knowledge that I have endeavoured to "feed His Sheep" with the principles and ideals of this great association. If we would only realize that these little ones of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and that just how they shall lead mankind in the future depends wholly on what we teach them today, our *duty* is plain before us, and we cannot fail them. . . . Accept my testimony of the great joy and happiness that comes by serving the little children."

And from Sister Kathleen Featherstone, of the Skelton Branch:

"I am happy to have any position in Primary work, for it carries with it an abundance of love which fills you with the Spirit of God. May God always bless and prosper the Primary work."

Many more are the testimonies that could be cited in favour of Primary work, but here Experience rests its case for teachers to explore the reactions of the children themselves—who you might have begun to think were going to be left out of this writing.

IF you were to visit the North London Primary some Wednesday afternoon, you would be attracted to a bright-eyed young lad whose shining countenance radiates a keenness that is contagious. He is Derrick N. Hawkes. If you were to ask him, "Why Primary?" you would likely receive an answer similar to this:

"The Trail-Builder class in Primary is a source of enjoyment to me in the fact that I learn things that interest me, such as first aid and scouting. We have in this organization a Log Book which contains various tests, for which, when passed, we receive badges. I enjoy preparing for these tests, as it occupies my time. Also, we have four trails: Spiritual, Health, Service, and Knowledge trails, which we blaze in our daily life.

"The Primary gives me friends whom I enjoy associating with."

And here is young Arthur Clarke, not yet twelve, who became a member of the Eastwood branch through the awakening he experienced in Primary. His simple story carries with it deep significance:

"It was through the Primary that I first heard of the Mormon Church. We went to live against some Latter-day Saints, and they took me to Primary. I thought it was splendid the things they taught me; I was happy to go. I like to repeat the slogans. I try to do my best in everything they show me.

"Then I started to go to Sunday School and wanted to join the Church, so that I could partake of the Sacrament, so my parents let me be baptized. Although my parents are not members of the Church, I hope they will be some day. I will be very happy if they will, because of the blessings they will get."

A lifetime planned in the way of Truth! If the Eastwood Primary reaps no other fruits than this, its mission will be gloriously successful!

Now just one more simple testimony—this from little Florence Richardson of the Clayton branch Primary—to complete the picture of Primary's influence in the lives of its youthful, impressionable pupils:

"I like to go to Primary because we have interesting lessons. When we go we have to go clean, because we have a motto: 'We stand for Clean Hands, Clean Faces, Clean Teeth, Clean Boots, and a smile.'

"My part in Primary is to write the minutes every week. The only thing I do not like to think about is the time when I shall become too old to be a Primary member. But my teacher says I shall become a teacher then. If I enjoy it then as much as I do now, I shall be very happy."

Confident that no more need be said, Experience here rests its case for Primary.

It is a singular thing that without exception, everyone who wholeheartedly accepts the responsibility of leadership in Primary, finds in her work a satisfaction that is unique. Doubtless there is not a happier corps of workers in the mission. And the happy thing about Primary work itself is that its blessings are not limited to the few. That some one in your branch is already so engaged need not deter you from going ahead to reap the blessings that have been mirrored here through the experiences of others. Neighbourhood Primaries, School Primaries, Factory Primaries, Terrace Primaries—the fields from which children may be drawn to form the nucleus of a Primary group are almost limitless. And the opportunity of service, therefore, is without bounds.

Happy times, replete with soul-satisfaction and the joy of service, and greatly beneficial in the accompanying self-development, await those who are yet to enlist in the Lord's most precious work—the teaching of little children to walk in His ways. So speaks the voice of experience. Argument, conjecture and opinion rest humbly in accord.—RICHARD S. BENNETT.

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